



## EP-3E Crew Arrives Safely in Hawaii

*By Journalist 1st Class Joseph Gunder, Navy News Service*

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The 24 crew members of the EP-3E have arrived safely at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, on April 12, after being detained for 11 days on China's Hainan Island.

The Chinese agreed April 11 to release the crew after receiving a statement from the U.S. government that expressed "sincere regret" at the loss of the missing Chinese pilot and F-8. The statement also added, "we are very sorry" the U.S. plane landed on Hainan Island without verbal clearance.

The flight crew's EP-3E Aries was forced to make an emergency landing on Hainan Island after it was struck by a Chinese F-8 fighter over the South China Sea.

The crew will undergo several days of debriefing before returning to the U.S. mainland. A welcome home ceremony at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash., is planned.

China has indicated it will hold the EP-3E aircraft pending future talks, set to begin April 18.

"The American people, their families and I are proud of our crew and we look forward to welcoming them home," said President George Bush in an April 11 news conference at the White House.



**Lt. Shane Osborne, plane commander of the U.S. Navy EP-3E aircraft involved in the April 1 accident with a Chinese F-8 aircraft, addresses a cheerful crowd at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, as Adm. Thomas B. Fargo, Commander In Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet, looks on.**

**Photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Elizabeth L. Burke**

## Fleet Master Chiefs Go Worldwide to Sailors

*By MCPON Public Affairs*

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) and Fleet Master Chiefs want Navy families to know what's going on in their Navy. To make it happen, they're going directly to the waterfront.

LIFELines is sponsoring the live, televised broadcast of "MCPON, Fleet Master Chief, Worldwide All Hands Call - 2001" on April 24 at 12:30 p.m., EDT. The Naval Media Center and its "Navy Live"

mobile TV broadcast facility will produce the program from the largest naval base in the world, Naval Station Norfolk, Va. USS *Bataan* (LHD 5) crewmembers and their families will host the master chiefs on board for the show.

One of the driving factors to take the show Navy-wide was "message alignment," one of the CNO's "Top Five" priorities. In this case, alignment refers to the CNO's efforts to direct, or align, the words that

Navy leadership wants to get to the fleet.

"Our Navy is going through an incredible amount of change, and it's affecting virtually every aspect of life for Navy families," explained MCPON(SS/SW/AW) Jim Herdt. "The Sailors and their families are our top priority and this is a great way to keep them abreast of the sweeping changes we're going through."

*See **Fleet**, page 4*

# Sailors Can Boost Their MGIB Benefits

*By Michael McLellan, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs*

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — A provision of the recently-enacted Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000 permits certain Sailors to increase their monthly Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) program benefits by making an additional contribution to the program. Only Sailors who entered active duty after July 1, 1985, and enrolled in MGIB during their first two weeks of active duty are eligible.

Effective May 1, each additional contribution of \$4 will increase the monthly MGIB benefit by \$1 under the terms of the Act. The maximum additional contribution possible is \$600. Sailors contributing the maximum would realize an

increase to their MGIB monthly benefit of \$150. In other words, Sailors who make the additional maximum contribution, and are enrolled as full-time students following active duty, will receive a total benefit of \$800 monthly.

There are specific limiting eligibility requirements that apply to this provision. One constraint is that members who elect this option can contribute the additional amount only while serving on active duty. This is the law and is not waivable. However, eligible Sailors who were on active duty on the Nov. 1, 2000, enactment date of the legislation and separated prior to the effective date of May 1, have until July 31 to contribute. Separated members should make

payment directly to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). Affected members should contact the DVA at 1-888-GIBILL1, or 1-888-442-4551.

Personnel who are enrolled in the MGIB program by reason of involuntary separation, conversion from Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) or Vietnam-Era GI Bill, and those who enrolled in MGIB during the open enrollment period of Dec. 1, 1988, through June 30, 1989, are not eligible for this option.

"A nine-to-one return on your investment is possible," explained Mrs. Kathy Wardlaw, branch head of the federal education programs branch (PERS-604) at Navy

Personnel Command in Millington, Tenn. "Combine the current MGIB benefit amount with the benefit available by making the maximum contribution allowed by the new law, and use the benefit for the full 36 months to maximize your benefit."

Further details regarding necessary action for participation will be announced soon via Navy-wide message. Additional information is available by calling PERS-604 MGIB program customer service representatives at DSN 882-4258 or 1-800-962-1425.

Mrs. Kathy Wardlaw can be reached at DSN 882-4275 or (901) 874-4275, or by e-mail at [kp604@persnet.navy.mil](mailto:kp604@persnet.navy.mil).

## Education Pays Off Big with VEAP Conversion

*By Chief Journalist Milinda D. Jensen, Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs*

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Education can make a world of difference in your lifestyle, especially if you are a retiree. And financing that education is where the switch from the Veterans Education Assistance Program (VEAP) to the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) Program really pays off big.

The basic monthly payment under the MGIB Program is \$650 for 36 months of full-time schooling for a maximum of \$23,400, in comparison to a member enrolled in VEAP, who would receive a up to \$300 a month for 27 months of full-time training for a maximum of \$8,100.

Converting from VEAP

to the MGIB Program requires a payment of \$2,700 into MGIB within 18 months of converting from VEAP. VEAP allows you to contribute any amount up to \$2,700. If you remain enrolled in VEAP, any unused portion of your VEAP contributions is fully refundable to you.

Total taxable income is reduced the same way as the current MGIB Program; whether it's by making the \$2,700 one-time payment, or by monthly payments.

However, certain restrictions apply to the conversion program. Public Law 106-419 authorizes

Sailors who participated (opened a VEAP account, regardless if money was put into the account) in the program on or before Oct. 9, 1996, and served continuously from that date through April 1, 2000, the opportunity to enroll in the MGIB Program. October 31 is the deadline to enroll in the MGIB Program.

Members participating in the conversion program who are retiring or transferring to the Fleet Reserve and elect to pay all or a portion of the required \$2,700 payment after retirement need to send all remittances and correspondence to Defense

Finance and Accounting Service, Code PRRAB, 1240 East 9th Street, Lockbox-CL0001, Cleveland, OH 44199-2055.

Make checks and money orders payable to Defense Finance and Accounting Service. In the memo portion of the check or money order, write "MGIB."

For additional information on eligibility for conversion from VEAP to MGIB, call Navy MGIB Program customer service at 1-800-962-1425. For questions concerning payment procedures for the \$2,700, call DFAS at DSN 580-5986 (ext. 5005), or (216) 522-5986 (ext. 5005).

# CCD Launches StayNavy.Navy.Mil Web Site

By Ensign Bill Danzi, Center for Career Development

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — A new web site that features high-tech, timely and accurate career information for Sailors and their families is now available worldwide. The web site [www.staynavy.navy.mil](http://www.staynavy.navy.mil) merges the Retention Center On Line into a newly designed site developed by the Center for Career Development (CCD) at Navy Personnel Command in Millington, Tenn.

"This web site is designed to provide easily accessible supplemental information pertaining to pay, benefits, duty assignments and rating information, and to allow individual record review on line," said Cmdr. David Alexander, information technology director at CCD.

Alexander said that explaining benefits and offering crucial career information are essential to keeping Sailors in the Navy. "We've recognized the need to provide Sailors and their families with access to information required to make crucial career decisions. Historically, this information was not readily accessible."

Information resources on the web site include:

- Enlisted Summary Record, Officer Data Card and Performance Summary Record on line. These provide Sailors with immediate access to professional records. Service members will be able to verify their professional information and they also will be able to order their microfiche on line before an upcoming selection or promotion board.

- Pay and Compensation Calculator. This assists Sailors and their family members in determining how much they would have to earn in the civilian market to replace their current income.

- REDUX vs. High-3 retirement comparison. This assists members who have to make a choice between the \$30,000 bonus at 15 years of service or the High-3 retirement option. They can use this feature to best determine which option is in their best interest.

- Rating Research Aid. This provides a central and integrated source of information about any rating to include descriptions, entry

qualifications, career map, selected reenlistment bonus calculator, advancement trends and education information. A search tool is offered to Sailors interested in striking for a particular rating or to use a conversion process such as SCORE (Selected Conversion and Reenlistment).

- Assignment Research Aid. This assists Sailors making transition decisions by helping them search by rate and geographic area to find an estimate of future billet openings. Additionally, a multitude of local links will be available to assist Sailors in finding information about a new location or to help them make transition decisions.

The best of the Retention Center On Line has been incorporated into the Counselor's Corner section by providing tools and information for both the counselors and their Sailors.

The Center for Career Development was established to help the Navy strike a more equitable balance between recruiting and



retention. While retention is and always will be a command responsibility, CCD helps provide the fleet with the tools necessary to keep the Navy's high-quality Sailors in uniform. CCD is part of the Navy's continuing efforts to improve Sailors' quality of service — that is, a balanced combination of quality of life and quality of work.

To that end, one of the center's main objectives is to foster a professional climate in which retention is a culture rather than a single event conducted when a Sailor reaches a career decision crossroads.

For more information about the CCD, please contact CCD Public Affairs at (901) 874-2200.

## NPC & Kennedy Help 4 Brothers Stay Navy

By Journalist 1st Class Chris Alves, USS John F. Kennedy Public Affairs and Ensign Bill Danzi, Center for Career Development

MAYPORT, Fla. (NNS) — Four brothers are staying Navy to serve together aboard the Mayport-based USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67), thanks to the dedicated efforts of *Kennedy*'s career counselors and the yeoman detailer team at Navy Personnel Command in Millington, Tenn.

Yeoman (YN) 1st Class Daniel Hawk and YN2(AW) Marc Hawk will join the carrier's ship's company to serve with their youngest brother, Torpedoman's Mate 3rd Class Jerry T. Hawk. YN1 John Hawk will transfer to *Kennedy*'s squadron, Strike Fighter Squadron 31. A reenlistment ceremony was

held April 6 for Daniel, Marc and John aboard *Kennedy*. During the ceremony, Jerry administered the oath of enlistment to his older brothers.

For Daniel, the reunion with his three brothers marks a happy and highly emotional moment in his career.

"When John joined the

Navy in 1984, Jerry was 4 years old, Marc was 6 and I was 16," said Daniel. "I joined in 1986. Since then, we have all been together only a handful of times. With four of six siblings in the Navy, family reunions are few and far between. Finally,

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# Navy Recycles Last of Vietnam's "Liquid Fire"

By Journalist 2nd Class Trevor Hoehne, Navy Compass (San Diego)

FALLBROOK, Calif. (NNS) — After more than two decades, the last of the nation's inventory of napalm has been erased from the history books.

Napalm, which is a combination of benzene, gasoline and polystyrene, was stockpiled at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, Detachment Fallbrook, Calif., since 1978. The more than 34,500 crated canisters, containing 2.6 million gallons of napalm, covered 67 acres of land at the weapons station.

The final containers of the thick honey-like substance were disposed of March 29.

"Acres and acres of napalm are finally gone," stated Capt. Thomas Boothe of Naval Facilities Engineering Command during an April 4 ceremony signifying the end of the removal project.

Each of the 10-foot canisters were punctured and

drained. The canisters were then shredded and sent to a commercial recycling facility to make airplane and automotive parts. The napalm was reformulated into fuel for use in industrial furnaces in Texas and Louisiana, while the wooden crates that held the napalm were shredded and sent to Tennessee where they were used as fuel to power a rubber plant.

The three-year environmental removal project cost \$50 million. The Navy conducted the removal in accordance with procedures established in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980.

"The disposal was safe to the environment and went extremely well," said Capt. Paul Bruno, commanding officer of Naval Station Seal Beach, Detachment Fallbrook.

"Now the 67 acres and can be returned to its natural habitat, the plant life can grow



**Acting Secretary of the Navy Robert Pirie Jr. rubbed elbows with the "blueshirt" community when he shared lunch with Sailors on board USS *Dubuque* (LPD 8) during a visit to San Diego on April 3, 2001. Secretary Pirie was in California to visit Navy ships and witness the shredding of the last napalm canister at Naval Weapons Station, Fallbrook. Photo by Chief Photographer's Mate Dolores L. Parlato**

back and some of the indigenous species will regain some of their land," said Boothe.

Eike Hohenadl, the disposal plant's site manager, added, "Napalm is a memory of a war that most Americans would like to forget. I'm glad

we are at an end."

During the ceremony, attended by acting Secretary of the Navy, Robert Pirie Jr. and several other military and local community dignitaries, the Navy simulated the napalm removal process with two empty canisters.

## Fleet, con't. from pg. 1

Taking questions during the show with Herdt will be FLTMC(fleet master chief)(SS) Tom Hefty from the Atlantic Fleet, FLTMC(SW/AW) Rod Rodriguez from the Pacific Fleet, and FLTMC(SW/AW) Bob Hallstein from U.S. Naval Forces Europe.

The 90-minute show will be 30 minutes longer than last year's show because of the overwhelming response to the first program. It will air on Direct to Sailor (DTS) television, various video teleconference sites, and many local base and community cable stations, as well as streamed live on the Internet. Information about specific channels and times will be issued as the broadcast date nears.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark is encouraging Navy commands to incorporate the show into their general military training wherever feasible. LIFELines is sponsoring the information opportunity for the second year in a row.

"LIFELines is happy to provide this great service for Navy families around the world," explained LIFELines spokesman Capt. William Hendrix. "Providing this type of information for families is exactly why we exist — to make the service that Navy families commit to a little bit easier."

Producers are encouraging Sailors and their spouses to forward questions for the master chiefs in advance. They can submit

questions by going to [www.lifelines2000.org](http://www.lifelines2000.org) and following links to the broadcast, or e-mailing their questions directly to [p00da1@bupers.navy.mil](mailto:p00da1@bupers.navy.mil). They will also be able to call in their questions live during the show. Questions should include a name, rate/rank and duty station. A directory of stations carrying the program can also be seen at the LIFELines web site.

"The fleet master chiefs and I want to do whatever possible to get Sailors up-to-date, correct information," Herdt said. "Aligning Sailors' and the Navy's expectations is very important in producing realistic expectations from Sailors, and cultivating opportunities for success in our Navy."



# Sailors and Marines Conduct Large-Scale Beach Assault

By Kernel Blitz Joint Information Bureau

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (NNS) — Navy and Marine Corps forces just completed a large-scale amphibious landing exercise in the vicinity of Camp Pendleton, Calif., on April 2. The exercise, named Kernel Blitz, is designed to enhance the training of Sailors and Marines in the complexities of brigade-size amphibious assault operations.

Ships of the U.S. 3rd Fleet landed ashore nearly 6,000 Marines of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force by means of helicopter, hovercraft and conventional landing craft. The landing force then practiced maneuvers while the ships concentrated on providing follow-on support from the sea.

This year's exercise was even more successful than previous exercises, and included new elements, which significantly increased its complexity. New to this year's exercise was the employment of Very Shallow Water mine counter-measure operations, the simulated employment of the Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) Assault Breaching System, and follow-on

echelon support by the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion of the 184th Infantry.

Amphibious landing operations are considered among the most complex of all naval maneuvers. The United States is the only nation currently maintaining a brigade-level amphibious assault capability.

"It is an invaluable experience anytime we get to practice with our Navy counterparts," said Marine Corps Brig. Gen. James R. Battaglini, commanding general, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade. "We operate as a Navy-Marine Corps team. Kernel Blitz will improve every aspect of our relationship with Amphibious Group Three."

Kernel Blitz takes place bi-annually, this year the exercise ran from March 20 to April 6. Approximately 25 ships, 75 aircraft and 15,000 Sailors, Marines, soldiers, airmen and coastguardsmen representing four nations participated in the exercise.

For more information about Kernel Blitz, click on the exercise logo at [www.c3f.navy.mil](http://www.c3f.navy.mil).

## Brothers, con't. from pg. 3

we get to be brothers again."

"It's going to be exciting, especially going out to sea together," Marc said. "Just about everyone in the Navy gets a chance to see the them? On top of that, if one of us ever needs help with anything, you've got three brothers to choose from to ask for help."

The E-5/E-6 yeoman detailer, YN1(SW) Colin Smolens, arranged permanent change of station orders to *Kennedy* for three of the four brothers. "They wanted to fulfill a dream they've had of serving together at the same command, and I wanted to help make their dream a reality."

John applauded Smolens' personal

dedication. "He was amazing. He not only took a personal interest in this endeavor, but he went above and beyond his responsibilities as a detailer to help us in our assignment request."

"A great team effort, including the ship's career counselors, Enlisted Personnel Management Activity Center and our staff, helped make this happen," said Smolens. "I think we all realized how much this meant to the Hawks to be united as a family. We are really happy for them and proud that we retained four talented Sailors in the United States Navy."

More information about USS *John F. Kennedy* can be found at [www.airlant.navy.mil/carriersbar.htm](http://www.airlant.navy.mil/carriersbar.htm).

## Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's Navy/Marine Corps News show:

- The show comes to you from the historic Marine Barracks 8th & I, in Washington, D.C.

- Tour the historic post, including the home of the Commandants.

- Find out why some World War II Sailors are sharing their experiences with some of today's Sailors.

- The Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon prepares for the upcoming parade season.

Compiled on tape #2001-16, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

## In Naval History: April 20, 1964

The submarine USS *Henry Clay* (SSBN 625) launched a Polaris A-2 missile from the surface in the first demonstration that such a missile could be launched from the surface as well as beneath the ocean. Thirty minutes later, the submarine launched another Polaris missile while submerged.

More information about naval history can be found at [www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil).



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